Book stalls of Sarav Sewa Sangh Prakashan at Railway Stations

1525. SHRI N. RAJANGAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of stations where Sarav Sewa Sangh Prakashan book stalls are functioning at present;

(b) what are the details of stations where new book stalls have been allotted during the last three years; and

(c) what is the royalty recovered at each station from Sarav Sewa Sangh Prakashan, Varanasi during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Allotment of book stalls at Railway stations

1526. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that North Frontier Railway had invited applications for allotment of book stalls at newly constructed platform at Katihar and that a number of societies, firms of educated unemployed had applied and were interviewed for the same; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard and what are the names of candidates who have been allotted this contract?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision has yet been taken.

Banking facility for passengers at railway stations

1527. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of railway stations where the banking facilities have been provided for the passengers;

(b) what are the reasons for not providing similar banking facilities at Delhi and New Delhi stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) There is no system of providing banking facilities for passengers on any of the Railways Stations. However, in the premises of certain stations there are branches of nationalised banks intended mainly for Railway transactions. Details of such stations are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Sino-India· border trade

1528. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to enter into trade relations with China;

(b) if so, what are the details thereot;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to open the border trade with China in view of the improved relationship between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A trade agreement was signed between India and China in August, 1984. Trade Protocols have been entered into between the two Governments in

November 1985, May, 1987 and June, 1988.

(c) and (d) During the visit to China from June 4—10, 1988 by a delegation led by the Commerce Secretary and agreement, in principle, was arrived at to resume border trade between India and China and to work out the modalities thereof. Details in this regard would depend on the modalities which may be agreed upon.

Poor condition of Private buses on DTC Routes

1529. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private buses are being run in Delhi on almost all DTC routes without any control of DTC,

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure timely operation of private buses on DTC routes;

(c) whether Government are aware that the private buses do not observe standard norms set for DTC buses regarding safety measures and seating capacity; and

(d) what is the loss of revenue per annum to DTC due to operation of private buses on DTC routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) These buses are given fixed time schedules and are required to observe the standard norms set up for DTC buses. Whenever any irregularity is noticed, strict action is taken against the bus owner.

(d) The entire cost of operations of private buses is met by the private operators.

Viability of Veraval-Rajkot Railway project for Broad Gauge

1530. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Veraval-Rajkot Broad Gauge Railway project has been found to be viable and feasible; and

(b) when primary survey was conducted and what steps have been taken to implement the project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) A techno-economic survey for conversion of Rajkot-Veraval (185 km) MG line into BG was completed in May, 1988. The Project was estimated to cost Rs. 68.14 crores with remunerative rate of return. The proposal has been referred to the Planning Commission for consideration and clearance.

Night landing Facilities at airports

1531. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of airports which are without night landing facilities and those which are without adequate instrument landing systems;

(b) what is the number of posts lying vacant in the Directorate of Air Safety and the Directorate of Airworthiness giving names of the key posts;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation returned the unspent amount of about Rs. 2 crores